

**CITY OF WARREN PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 4, 2013**



The meeting was called to order at 4:35 PM June 4, 2013. Members present were: Dennis Crandall, Jackie Angove, Ben Johnson, Kirk Johnson, Todd Ristau and Judi Wilson. Mark Zavinski was absent. Also attending were Mary Ann Nau, City Administrator; Mike Holtz, Director of Public Works; David Hildebrand, Planner/Development Administrator and Cindy Strandburg, Administrative Assistant.

VISITORS

Heidi Ekey – Whirley DrinkWorks
Barb Babcock – Whirley DrinkWorks
Rob Anderson – Warren Times Observer

MINUTES

Upon motion by Mrs. Angove and second by Mr. Ristau, the minutes of April 2, 2013 were approved as submitted.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs. Nau presented to the Commission a copy of the letter written to the Warren Alliance Church for the work they performed at Crescent Park on May 4, 2013

BUSINESS

Outdoor Fitness Court. Mrs. Babcock stated that each member can find in the packet that they handed out a copy of the current results from Survey Monkey regarding what type of fitness equipment people would like to see in the fitness court. Mrs. Babcock stated that the leg press is the most requested, however, climbers are very popular with families. Currently on FaceBook there is a “Name the Park” contest.

The Fitness Court Committee is interested in Clemons Park, however, they are concerned that people would not want to exercise out in the open. Mrs. Babcock asked if it would be possible to plant bushes. Mr. Hildebrand stated that 75% of the park must remain natural as per the deed.

In response to Mr. Hildebrand’s questions, Mrs. Ekey stated that the plan is to install 8-10 pieces of equipment in one park this year. Mrs. Ekey further stated that they are anticipating most of the people who are going to use the fitness court would probably walk, thus it would not require extra parking. Mrs. Nau stated that there is also a restroom across Fourth Avenue that could be utilized.

Mrs. Ekey stated that they do have specialized people handling different aspects of the project. They have someone who specifically works on financing, communications and grant writing. Mrs. Ekey stated that they have looked into grants from the American Diabetes Association, Arthritis Association along with many more. Mrs. Ekey further stated that they would like to incorporate the opening of the fitness court to coincide with “Make A Difference Day”, however it will all depend on how fast everything progresses.

Karen Bonnell Field. Mrs. Nau stated that she received a letter from Barb Phillips regarding permission to enhance the sign and replace the plants around Karen Bonnell Field. This request included painting the sign (with as close to original colors as possible), the removal of overgrown evergreens and replace them with small evergreens, and edge the grass and replace mulch around the sign. Mrs. Nau further stated that Mrs. Phillips is not asking for any financial assistance, she simply wants to clean up the field that honors her friend.

Upon motion by Mr. Ristau and second by Mrs. Wilson, the Commission unanimously agreed to accept the proposal made by Mrs. Phillips, however, the Commission asked that she contact DPW regarding the arborvitaes.

Beaty Park update. Mr. Holtz stated that the project went out for re-bidding as the first bid came in higher than budget. Mr. Holtz further stated that an inspection of the skate park will be completed this week.

Young Lungs at Play. Mrs. Nau stated that she was asked to participate in SCORP (State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan) for 2014-2018. Mrs. Nau further state that there is a huge emphasis on Healthy Living in Parks.

Mrs. Nau stated that per the Penn State Ext. website there are not currently any parks within the City or County that are smoke free. Mrs. Nau further stated that a change in the current ordinance would need to be made in order to make the areas around playground equipment smoke free. In response to Mr. Ristau's question, Mrs. Nau stated that enforcement would be as per ordinance which may include fees.

Summer Parks and Pool Program. Mrs. Nau stated that letters have been sent out to all City residents who participated in the program last year. The letter stated that the program has been cut from 5 playgrounds to 3. Also included was a list of the field trips for the season. Mrs. Nau further stated that there are two training meetings scheduled for all staff. One is for training from the new Summer Employee Manual and the other is for CPR and first aid.

Mrs. Nau stated that the pool has been painted, a new handrail was installed, and a chair lift for handicapped accessibility was put into place.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Mrs. Wilson stated that she did get a quote of \$937.00 for the replacement of the brass plaque that was on the stone at Washington Park. Mrs. Wilson stated that the new plaque will be made out of aluminum.

In response to Mrs. Angove's question, Mrs. Wilson stated that any donations can be made out to General Joseph Warren Chapter of DAR.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Mr. Crandall declared the meeting adjourned.